(b) and (c) LIC has reproted that there are four divisional offices of LIC in North Eastern Region *viz.*, Bongaigaon, Guwahati, Jorhat and Silchar. The business volume of these divisions do not warrant for a separate zonal office. However, it does not affect the servicing needs of the insuring public for this region as policyholders, employees and agents' needs are mainly taken care of by the branch offices and only in very few cases the matters are referred to divisional office. References to Zonal Office are very rare and mainly for administrative clarifications.

Failure of banking sector to meet the targets for the weaker section

1552. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banking sector has failed to meet the targets for weaker sections of the society;

(b) whether it is also a fact that economic reforms have reinforced financial exclusion of the landless belonging to the weaker section who would suffer from agrarian crisis and uprooting as a result of industrialization and urbanization;

(c) if so, whether Government is taking any action; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The revised guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on priority sector lending stipulate, *inter-alia*, a target of 40% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or credit equivalent of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher, for lending to the priority sector by domestic scheduled commercial banks, both in public and private sector. Within this, not less than 10% of ANBC is to be given to the 'Weaker Sections'. The revised guidelines on priority sector lending are available at RBI's website (*http://www.rbi.org.in*).

As reported by RBI, the details of outstanding advances granted to Weaker Sections under Priority Sector by public sector banks as on the last reporting Fridays of March 2005, 2006 and 2007 are as under:

(Amount in crore)

Year ending on	Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC)	Total priority sector advances target (40% of ANBC)	Advances to weaker sections target (10% of ANBC)
March, 2005	717419	307046 (42.8%)	55016 (7.67%)
March, 2006	1017656	409748 (40.30%)	78158 (7.70%)
March, 2007*	1317705	521180 (39.55%)	94285 (7.16%)

*Provisional

(b) to (d) In order to bring financially excluded, underprivileged and unbanked population within the formal banking system, Government has taken a number of steps which, *inter-alia,* include: opening of 'no frills' account with simplified procedure and limited overdraft facility wihout any collateral; one time settlement scheme for small borrowers; and issue of General Credit Cards to eligible beneficiaries without security, etc.

In order to enhance banking functions in the rural areas, RBI issued circular dated January 25, 2006 on "Financial Inclusion by Extension of Banking Services—Use of Business Facilitators and Correspondents". A copy of the circular is available on their

website www.rbi.org.in. Many banks have employed Business Correspondents/Business Facilitators to extend their outreach.

Income tax dues pending against cricketers

1553. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether income tax dues are pending from cricket players playing First Class Cricket;

(b) if so, the names of the players and the quantum of dues pending;

(c) whether any prosecutions are pending against such players under the Income Tax Act; and

(d) if so, the names of the players and the offences under which they are charged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Information in respect of outstanding income tax against all the cricket players playing first class cricket is not centrally maintained. To furnish the details player-wise would require compilation of data at all the field formations spread throughout the country, and the time and efforts required would not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved.

However, from the available records it is seen that amongst the current cricket players playing first class cricket substantial amount of Rs. 1.66 crore is outstanding against Sh. Sachin R. Tendulkar. The assessee has been granted monthly installments.

(c) No.

(d) No, in view of reply to part (c).

Projects funded by the World Bank

1554. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA.: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various projects being executed in various States, particularly in the State of Sikkim with the help of World Bank and other International Financial Institutions;

(b) the details of such projects and investments made therein; and

(c) the details of current position of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The details of projects being executed in various states with assistance of World Bank and other International Financial Institutions are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 212 Annexure No. 3.....]

No projects are currently being executed in the State of Sikkim with assistance of World Bank or other International Financial Institutions.

Report of the sixth central pay commission

1555. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any report on the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission;